



**Speech by Terry Davis**  
**Secretary General of the Council of Europe**  
**OSCE Ministerial Meeting**  
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Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Many speakers before me have spoken about the situation in Kosovo. The Council of Europe is present in Kosovo and is actively involved in the efforts to stabilise this part of the Western Balkans on the basis of the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, but we are not involved in the issue of the future status for Kosovo. That is why I will restrict my remarks to the efforts of the Council of Europe to bring to the people of Kosovo the highest standards and practices of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The fact is that, whatever may be the future status of Kosovo, the people of Kosovo are entitled to the protection of the European Convention on Human Rights and European standards of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

I also start with Kosovo because it provides a good example of complementary action between the OSCE and the Council of Europe, namely the organisation and the observation of the recent elections for

the Kosovo Assembly by the OSCE and the observation of these elections by the Council of Europe. Running elections and observing them are very down to earth activities. What is needed are clear, specific actions which lead to measurable results. If you succeed, it will show; and if you fail, it will show as well. I think that in this case we both succeeded.

In many of our other fields of action, the situation is not always so clear cut, and the results may not be immediately visible. But, we still strive to make a difference and leave something behind. The values we were created to defend and promote may be abstract, but our results must be real, specific and measurable.

This is my underlying philosophy as Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Our governments – and this goes for both the Council of Europe and the OSCE - created us with a purpose. They gave us a mandate, they finance us with taxpayer's money, and they expect us to deliver.

In the past three and a half years, the focus in the Council of Europe has been to move from output to outcome. It is not the number of meetings, missions or seminars that matters; it is what these meetings, missions or seminars achieve. That is why at the Council of Europe, we are changing our structures and sharpening our focus.

The objective is to reinforce, render more effective and better interconnect the key components of the Council of Europe work – standard-setting and monitoring with campaigns and assistance programmes. These four areas of action are beginning to function as a coherent, mutually reinforcing process – what we call a circle of change. The results of our monitoring feed into our standard-setting as well as assistance and co-operation activities, and vice-versa. Campaigns are used to raise awareness, disseminate information, enlist support and facilitate change.

This circle of change is not something we can or want to do on our own. The OSCE is a natural partner, especially when it comes to monitoring and co-operation activities. Your field presence is an asset on a scale beyond our reach. With Secretary General Marc de Blichambaut we are in regular and close contact in order to ensure a closer and more effective co-operation and coordination of activities between the OSCE and the Council of Europe, whenever and wherever this is feasible and justified, and in full knowledge and respect of our different mandates, structures, instruments and working methods. Sometimes we work together, sometimes we work alongside each other – as during the elections in Kosovo - but we should always know what the other is doing, and take it into account when planning and carrying out our work.